Again, in reply to searching questions put to him in the court of King Janaka by Vachakanavi Gargi, an enlightened lady philosophical enquirer, regarding *ether, Rishi Yajnavalkya* says : "*Ether* is woven like warp and woof in the *Akshara,* the Imperishable Being". He then describes the invisible and intangible nature of this Being and winds up by glorifying His sovereignty.

On account of the importance of the matter, I am inclined to reproduce below the questions of the enquirer and the answers of the Rishi (Brihadaranyaka—Chap. Ill—8th Brahmana—1).

Gargi said : "0 Yajnavalkya, as the son of a warrior from the Kasis or Videhas might string his loosened bow, take two pointed foe-piercing arrows in his hand and rise to do battle,. I have risen to fight thee with two questions. Answer me these questions." Yajnavalkya said : " Ask, 0 Gargi ". She said : " 0 Yajnavalkya, that of which they say that it is above the heavens, beneath the earth, embracing heaven and earth, past, present and future, tell me in what is it woven, like warp and woof? " Yajnavalkya said: "That of which they say that it is above the heavens, beneath the earth, embracing heaven and earth, past, present and future, that is woven like warp and woof, in the ether (akasa) ". She said : "I bow to thee, 0 Yajnavalkya, who has solved me that question. Get thee ready for the second". Yajnavalkya said: "Ask, 0 Gargi". She said : "In what then is ether woven, like warp and woof ? " He said : " 0 Gargi, the Brahmanas call this *Akshara* (the imperishable). It is neither coarse nor fine, neither short nor long, neither red (like fire) nor fluid (like water) ; it is without shadow, without darkness,

without air, without eth^er, without
attachment, without taste, with-
out smell, without eyes, without ears,
without speech, without mind,
without light (vigour), without breath,
without a mouth (or door),
without measure, having no within and no
without; it devours nothing
and no one devours it. **By the command**
of that Akshara
the Imperishable, 0 Gargi, sun and
moon stand apart. By the
command of that Akshara, 0 Gargi,
heaven and earth stand
apart. By the command of that
Akshara, 0 Gargi, what are
called moments (nimesha), hours
(muhurta), days and nights, '
half months, months, seasons, years,
all stand apart. By
command of that Akshara, 0 Gargi,
some rivers flow to the